



Resources for the Restaurant Community

HELPFUL NETWORKS

[VT Independent Restaurant Coalition](#)

An emerging coalition of over 180 Vermont restaurants and bars working together to build, connect, and inspire. Join and connect with others in the industry!

[Chambers of Commerce](#)

Join your regional chamber to access resources, programs, networking and marketing opportunities.

[Downtown Associations](#)

Technical assistance and state funding for community development based around designated downtowns. Check out your municipality's downtown!

PERSONAL SUPPORT RESOURCES

[VT Department of Mental Health](#)

Resources for how to take care of ourselves and others during this uncertain time. Includes links to immediate support, therapy, and coronavirus information.

[Restaurant After Hours: Resources & Help Lines](#)

Compilation of restaurant-specific organizations and communities, crisis hotlines, mental health organizations and support groups.

[Children of Restaurant Employees \(CORE\)](#)

Provides financial assistance to food and beverage employees with children when either parent or child faces a health crisis, injury, death, or natural disaster.

[Coping with Stress from SAMSHA](#) (PDF)

[COVIDSupportVT Coping Tips](#) (PDF)

[Stretch your Budget Resources - 3SquaresVT, etc.](#) (PDF)

There are numerous financial assistance programs available. Ask for help! These programs provide stability and help circulate dollars in our local economy.

24/7 Free and Confidential Resources Available by Phone

- **[Pathways Vermont Peer Support Line](#): 833-VT-TALKS (888-2557)**
Different from a crisis helpline or emergency hotline, *call or text* for mental health help and counseling for anything from the anger you feel after a bad day, to times when you feel alone, to when you need support for substance abuse, medical concerns, relationship challenges, or thoughts of suicide.
- **[Statewide Helpline](#): Dial 2-1-1**
Help with problem-solving and/or connecting you to government programs, community-based organizations, support groups and available human services including food, shelter and healthcare.
- **[VT Text Crisis Line](#): Text “VT” to 741741**
For support and information during any time of crisis.
- **[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
Crisis support line for folks in immediate distress.
- **[SAMHSA's National Treatment Referral Helpline](#): 800-662-HELP (4357)**
Provides 24-hour free and confidential referrals and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment, and recovery in English and Spanish.
- **[SAMSHA Disaster Distress Hotline](#): 1-800-985-5990; Text TalkWithUs or Hablanos to 66746**
Provides immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster

BUSINESS SUPPORT RESOURCES

[Invest EAP](#) - Check with your insurer to see if you are already covered!

On-call counselors offering legal, financial advice, short-term counseling and referral, management consultation, wellness workshops and resource information. Affordable and well-worth the investment.

[Buy Vermont Made](#)

Buy local initiative to connect shoppers with Vermont-made gifts and products, as well as Vermont retailers, in six categories – wearables, craft beverages, specialty food, home goods, personal care and toys and books.

[ACCD Business Impact Form](#)

Fill out this form to help ACCD continue to assess the full impact of Covid-19 as we work toward additional recovery solutions.

[VermontVacation.com Stay & Play Directory](#)

The VermontVacation.com Directory is a marketing tool that provides a platform to amplify Vermont businesses offering tourism-related services. The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing (VDTM), along with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont Independent Restaurants coalition, are teaming up to increase gift card sales during the holiday season. VDTM will be driving consumers to the Vermont Vacation Directory to find local restaurants to support. There is still time to [create a FREE listing for your restaurant](#) to take full advantage of this promotion, by filling out the directory form before Thursday, December 17th. If does not wish to participate in the program, they can request a [free basic listing](#) or learn more about [enhanced opportunities](#).

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

[Vermont Mutual Aid Community Resource List](#)

An extensive, well-organized crowd-sourced document linking to a wide variety of local resources.

[On The Fly Resource Page](#)

Resource page linking to industry specific, state-funded resources, health and wellbeing, relief funds, advocacy groups etc.

COVID-19 RESOURCES (anticipating expiration 12/30, but possibility for renewal)

[On The Fly - Covid Response for VT Businesses](#)

No-cost rapid business and marketing consulting and strategizing for food, drink, and hospitality businesses.

[VT Farm To Plate Covid-19 Support](#)

A collection of resources aimed at providing support for farmers, businesses and organizations in the food system during Covid-19.

[ACCD - Covid-19 Recovery Resource Center](#)

Agency of Commerce and Community Development page on economic recovery grants, business assistance, and guidelines related to Covid-19.

COVID-19 SAFETY

[Covid-19 and Food Industry Safety](#)

Guidelines on how to navigate employee and workplace safety with Covid-19 in an FAQ format.

[Free ServSafe Covid-19 Trainings](#)

Brief online trainings for safe reopening and delivery/takeout services.

[National Restaurant Association](#)

Business resources and guidelines for Covid-19 funding and safe operation.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

[Independent Restaurants Coalition - National Website](#)

National Coalition of small restaurants uniting to affect legislative change and support one another.

[James Beard Foundation Mentorship](#) - Get a mentor!

Mentors to ensure food and beverage professionals from all backgrounds, especially those who have historically faced difficulty finding and engaging with mentorship have support, knowledge, and resources to thrive.

[Restaurant Workers Community Foundation Relief Funds](#) - Share with employees!

Advocacy and action non-profit created by and for restaurant workers intending to make the industry more hospitable to everyone.

[National Restaurant Association](#)

National Restaurant Association has a strong presence in Washington, D.C. and serves members by advancing and protecting the restaurant and food service industry with the goals to build industry influence, build industry image, and build industry engagement. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce is the designated state affiliate for the National Restaurant Association.

NOTES/NEWS

How You Can Help Pass Restaurant Relief During a Lame-Duck Congress

<https://openforgood.com/article/how-you-can-help-pass-restaurant-relief-during-a-lame-duck-congress/>

December 7 National Restaurant Association Update

The National Restaurant Association is [released a letter to Congress](#) with the results of their latest survey on the economic health of the industry, and the findings are bleak:

- 110,000 restaurants nationwide are closed... 10,000 more since the last survey.
- 52% of former owners of shuttered restaurants say they will not return to the industry.
- 59% of owners report their costs are going up even as sales are going down.
- The average restaurant that is now permanently closed was in business for 16 years in the community.

For months, Congress has been trapped in a political tug-of-war while restaurants continue to go dark. A group of moderate Democrats and Republicans last week unveiled a compromise plan that has brought both parties back to the negotiating table. They are calling for a \$909 billion relief bill, including a second round of Paycheck Protection Program grants, which with improvements could provide immediate assistance to restaurants.

Efforts in Washington to find the “perfect” solution are laudable, but the lack of progress in the meantime has led too many operators to give up on the government and close down for good.

Restaurants can make their voice heard: <https://p2a.co/geabs1a>

[December 7 Restaurant Update from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce](#)